

to the souls of the men, women and children who were slaughtered, burned and murdered during the Holocaust for the sanctification of your name, who have gone to their eternal rest let us pray for the elevation of their souls. May their resting place be in the Garden of Eden.

Therefore, the Master of mercy will care for them under the protection of His wings for all time

And bind their souls in the bond of everlasting life.

God is their inheritance and may they rest in peace and let us say Amen.

HONORING ROBERT SILLEN FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN HEALTHCARE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my Santa Clara County colleagues Representatives MIKE HONDA and ANNA ESHOO to acknowledge and honor Robert Sillen who is retiring after a noteworthy and successful career in public health serving the residents of Santa Clara County.

In June, 1993, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, on which Congress Members LOFGREN and HONDA served, created a full-service, integrated County health care system consisting of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, Department of Custody Health Services and the Department of Alcohol & Drug Services. The Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System is responsible for a full continuum of preventive intervention and treatment services throughout the County, both directly under County auspices and through contracts with the private sector. The system is comprised of over 6,200 employees and has an annual operating budget of nearly \$1.4 billion.

Until very recently, Robert Sillen served as Executive Director and was responsible for all aspects of the system's operations, long range planning, private and public partnerships, community relations, and capital development and information systems. Mr. Sillen was fully accountable for the development of a cost effective, fully integrated system that is essential for the successful conversion to a full-service managed care delivery system in a highly competitive environment. In addition, he was responsible for designing and implementing a County-wide Medi-Cal Managed Care program in June 1996 as well as the Children's Health Initiative and Healthy Kids program in January, 2000.

Prior to his position with the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, Mr. Sillen was Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, a 500-bed regional medical center with an operating budget of over \$800 million and 4,500 full-time equivalent employees. Services range from community based primary care satellite clinics to regional services for treatment of burns, spinal cord injuries, head trauma, neonatal intensive care, poison control and trauma, the life flight helicopter and health services for those in jail custody.

Prior to his executive director positions with the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System and the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Mr. Sillen worked at the University Hospital at the UC Medical Center in San Diego, the City Hospital Center at Elmhurst, New York and the U.S. Public Health Service in New York, New York. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Denver, Colorado and his Master's degree in Public Health from Yale University.

Robert Sillen has acted as a guardian of the virtues and spirit behind the creation of the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System. The initial challenges faced in establishing a foundation for a strong network of health providers with private, local, regional and national departments were dizzying, but achievable with Mr. Sillen at the helm. We sincerely thank him on behalf of the thousands of residents who have benefited from this system and wish him the very best upon his retirement.

EQUAL PAY DAY STATEMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the persistent gender pay gap. More than four decades ago, President Kennedy attempted to address pay disparities between men and women. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made it unlawful for employers to pay women lower wages than men for equivalent jobs. Unfortunately, this law has not eradicated pay inequality. On average, women still earn about 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. Though women earn about 18 cents more compared to men than they did in 1963, they still face significant and intolerable wage discrimination.

Women of color face even greater discrimination on the payroll. In 2004, African American women earned 67 cents for each dollar earned by white men, and Hispanic women earned a little over half of what white men earned. These pay differences persist even in equivalent positions for employees with the same levels of education and expertise.

Worse yet, pay equality for some positions has actually lost ground in the past few years. Female managers earned less than their male counterparts in 2000 than they did in 1995. Studies have shown that even when women's career choices match those of men and they work the same number of hours in equivalent positions, they earn less than men.

Wage inequality is a major indicator of gender discrimination in our country. As an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 1687, I feel that it is the duty of Congress to address this unacceptable gender disparity. The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen provisions of the original Equal Pay Act and would make filing for class action status less onerous.

It is well past the time when women should be receiving fair wages for the work that they do. While the overall wage disparity between men and women has decreased since the 1960s, progress has been frustratingly slow. I believe that with appropriate congressional action we can finally reach wage equality for all Americans.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express pleasure with the passage of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

What is happening in the Darfur region of Sudan is genocide. I have visited the region several times over the past couple of years, and have had the privilege to meet women and children who have suffered and who have survived. Their courage and determination to stay alive—to survive—is an inspiration and it humbles me. The atrocities being perpetrated against the innocent civilians of Darfur must be condemned in the strongest possible terms by this Congress, the Administration, and the international community.

H.R. 3127 attempts to address the dire situation in the Darfur region by reaffirming the sanctions already in place against Sudan, and by authorizing the President to block the assets and deny the visas of those deemed to be responsible for the genocide. It has taken several months to come to agreement on a version of the bill that could move forward with bipartisan support. This bill is a better bill as a result of the discussions that took place, and I am happy to support it.

During committee consideration, I successfully offered an amendment to H.R. 3127 that states that the genocide taking place in Darfur is the result of acts of terrorism, and calls on the Secretary of State to designate the Government of Sudan-supported janjaweed as a foreign terrorist organization. It also calls on the Secretary to maintain Sudan's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Subcommittee, and to Chairman Hyde and Ranking Member Lantos, for their support of my amendment.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3127 is a good bill but our effort cannot end here. By passing this legislation, we send a clear signal to the Government of Sudan, and the janjaweed, that the United States remains absolutely committed to seeing an end to the violence and genocide taking place in Darfur. However, while laws are important, they are merely words if not coupled with action—I urge the Administration to act further to stop this genocide. The people of Darfur deserve peace, and the Government of Sudan and the janjaweed militia deserve to be brought to justice and be held accountable for the crime of genocide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN DAN SCHAEFER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Congressman Dan Schaefer, who succumbed to cancer on Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

Former Republican Representative Dan Schaefer served as the Congressman from